Cell Arrays

Screening large numbers of compounds for activity with respect to a particular biological function requires preparing arrays of cells for parallel handling of cells and reagents. Standard 96 well microtiter plates which are 86 mm by 129 mm, with 6mm diameter wells on a 9mm pitch, are used for compatibility with current automated loading and robotic handling systems. The microplate is typically 20 mm by 30 mm, with cell locations that are 100-200 microns in dimension on a pitch of about 500 microns. Methods for making microplates are described in U.S. Patent 6,103,479, incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. Microplates may consist of coplanar layers of materials to which cells adhere, patterned with materials to which cells will not adhere, or etched 3-dimensional surfaces of similarly pattered materials. For the purpose of the following discussion, the terms 'well' and 'microwell' refer to a location in an array of any construction to which cells adhere and within which the cells are imaged. Microplates may also include fluid delivery channels in the spaces between the wells. The smaller format of a microplate increases the overall efficiency of the system by minimizing the quantities of the reagents, storage and handling during preparation and the overall movement required for the scanning operation. In addition, the whole area of the microplate can be imaged more efficiently, allowing a second mode of operation for the microplate reader as described later in this document.

Please replace the text at page 56 lines4-23 with the following:

Cell preparation. The cells chosen for this study were mouse connective tissue fibroblasts (L-929; ATCC CCL-1) and a highly invasive glioblastoma cell line (SNB-19; ATCC CRL-2219) (Welch et al., *In Vitro Cell. Dev. Biol.* 31:610, 1995). The day before treatment with an apoptosis inducing drug, 3500 cells were placed into each well of a 96-well plate and incubated overnight at 37°C in a humidified 5% CO_2 atmosphere. The following day, the culture medium was removed from each well and replaced with fresh medium containing various concentrations of paclitaxel (0 – 50 μM) from a 20 mM stock made in DMSO. The maximal concentration of DMSO used in these experiments was 0.25%. The cells were then incubated for 26 h as above. At the end of the paclitaxel treatment period, each well received fresh medium containing 750 nM MITOTRACKER® Red (Molecular Probes; Eugene, OR) and 3 μg/ml Hoechst 33342 DNA-binding dye (Molecular Probes) and was incubated as above for 20 min. Each well on the plate was then washed with HBSS and fixed with 3.7% formaldehyde in HBSS

for 15 min at room temperature. The formaldehyde was washed out with HBSS and the cells were permeabilized for 90 s with 0.5% (v/v) Triton X-100, washed with HBSS, incubated with 2 U ml^{-1} BODIPY® FL phallacidin (Molecular Probes) for 30 min, and washed with HBSS. The wells on the plate were then filled with 200 µl HBSS, sealed, and the plate stored at 4°C if necessary. The fluorescence signals from plates stored this way were stable for at least two weeks after preparation. As in the nuclear translocation assay, fluorescence reagents can be designed to convert this assay into a live cell high-content screen.

Please replace the text at page 56 lines 24-28 with the following:

Image acquisition and analysis on the ArrayScan System. The fluorescence intensity of intracellular MITOTRACKER® Red, Hoechst 33342, and BODIPY® FL phallacidin was measured with the cell screening system as described *supra*. Morphometric data from each pair of images obtained from each well was also obtained to detect each object in the image field (*e.g.*, cells and nuclei), and to calculate its size, shape, and integrated intensity.

Please replace the text at page 57 lines 1-19 with the following:

Calculations and output. A total of 50-250 cells were measured per image field. For each field of cells, the following calculations were performed: (1) The average nuclear area (μm^2) was calculated by dividing the total nuclear area in a field by the number of nuclei detected. (2) The average nuclear perimeter (µm) was calculated by dividing the sum of the perimeters of all nuclei in a field by the number of nuclei detected in that field. Highly convoluted apoptotic nuclei had the largest nuclear perimeter values. (3) The average nuclear brightness was calculated by dividing the integrated intensity of the entire field of nuclei by the number of nuclei in that field. An increase in nuclear brightness was correlated with increased DNA content. (4) The average cellular brightness was calculated by dividing the integrated intensity of an entire field of cells stained with MITOTRACKER® dye by the number of nuclei in that field. Because the amount of MITOTRACKER® dye that accumulates within the mitochondria is proportional to the mitochondrial potential, an increase in the average cell brightness is consistent with an increase in mitochondrial potential. (5) The average cellular brightness was also calculated by dividing the integrated intensity of an entire field of cells stained with BODIPY® FL phallacidin dye by the number of nuclei in that field. Because the phallotoxins bind with high affinity to the polymerized form of actin, the amount of BODIPY®

C5 cont'd FL phallacidin dye that accumulates within the cell is proportional to actin polymerization state. An increase in the average cell brightness is consistent with an increase in actin polymerization.

Please replace the text at page 95 lines 21-28 with the following:

C6 In one embodiment, small reactive fluorescent molecules are introduced into living cells. These membrane-permeant molecules both diffuse through and react with protein components in the plasma membrane. Dye molecules react with intracellular molecules to both increase the fluorescence signal emitted from each molecule and to entrap the fluorescent dye within living cells. These molecules include reactive chloromethyl derivatives of aminocoumarins, hydroxycoumarins, eosin diacetate, fluorescein diacetate, some BODIPY® dye derivatives, and tetramethylrhodamine. The reactivity of these dyes toward macromolecules includes free primary amino groups and free sulfhydryl groups.

Please replace the text at page 96 lines 14-19 with the following:

C7 In a second embodiment subdomains of the plasma membrane, the extracellular surface, the lipid bilayer, and the intracellular surface can be labeled separately and used as components of high content screens. In the first embodiment, the extracellular surface is labeled using a brief treatment with a reactive fluorescent molecule such as the succinimidyl ester or iodoacetamde derivatives of fluorescent dyes such as the fluoresceins, rhodamines, cyanines, and BODIPYS®.

Please replace the text at page 97 lines 23-28 with the following:

Endosome fluorescence labeling

C8 In one embodiment, ligands that are transported into cells by receptor-mediated endocytosis are used to trace the dynamics of endosomal organelles. Examples of labeled ligands include BODIPY® FL-labeled low density lipoprotein complexes, tetramethylrhodamine transferrin analogs, and fluorescently labeled epidermal growth factor (Molecular Probes, Inc.)

Please replace the text at page 98 lines 10-15 with the following:

Lysosome labeling

C9 In one embodiment, membrane permeant lysosome-specific luminescent reagents are used to label the lysosomal compartment of living and fixed cells. These reagents include the luminescent molecules neutral red, N-(3-((2,4-dinitrophenyl)amino)propyl)-N-(3-